

**Amendments to the Claims**

Please amend the claims as follows:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Cancelled).

2. (Currently amended): A biological process for producing carotenoids including astaxanthin, the process comprising cultivating a microorganism which is capable of producing carotenoids which include astaxanthin and belonging to the genus *Xanthophyllomyces dendrorhous* (*Phaffia rhodozyma*) ATCC96594, redeposited under accession No. ATCC 74438, in the presence of an inhibitor of biosynthesis of sterols from farnesyl pyrophosphate [3-(3-allyl-biphenyl-4-yloxy)-propyl]-isopropyl-amine, a substrate for producing carotenoids which include astaxanthin, in an aqueous nutrient medium under aerobic conditions wherein the concentration of the inhibitor in the aqueous medium is within a range that gives less than a 50 % reduction of cell growth as compared to cell growth in the absence of the inhibitor under caroteneoids producing conditions and cell growth is determined by measuring the optical density of a sample of the cultured medium at 660 nm from 0.5  $\mu$ g/ml to 5.0  $\mu$ g/ml, and isolating the resulting carotenoids which include astaxanthin, from the cells of said microorganism or from the cultured medium, wherein the astaxanthin content of the isolated carotenoids is greater than that which results from cultivating in the absence of an inhibitor of biosynthesis of sterols from farnesyl pyrophosphate.

3 - 19. (Cancelled).

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20. (Previously presented): The process according to claim 2, wherein the cultivation is carried out at a pH in the range from 4 to 8 and at a temperature in the range from 15 to 26 °C, for 24 to 500 hours.

21. (Previously presented): The process according to claim 20, wherein the cultivation is carried out at a pH in the range from 5 to 7 and at a temperature in the range from 18 to 22 °C, for 48 to 350 hours.

22-24. (Cancelled).